Final Report of the e-Transparency Task Force to Governor Steven L. Beshear:

"Kentucky's Open Door"
11/01/08

e-Transparency Task Force Report
Contents

e-Transparency Task Force
Members

- Secretary Jonathan Miller
  - Chair

- Auditor Crit Luallen
  - Co-Chair

- Treasurer Todd Hollenbach
  - Co-Chair

- Attorney General Jack Conway

- Commissioner Richie Farmer

- Secretary of State Trey Grayson

- State Controller Edgar Ross

- State Budget Director Mary Lassiter

- State Librarian Wayne Onkst

- Gary White, Kentucky Broadcasters Association

- David Thompson, Kentucky Press Association

- Deputy Secretary Lori Flanery, acting Commissioner of COT

- Hiren Desai, Executive Director of the Office of Legal Services for Finance and Technology

- David Adkisson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

- Lee Jackson, Kentucky Association of State Employees

- Burt Lauderdale, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

- Richard Beliles, Common Cause of Kentucky

e-Transparency Task Force Report
Executive Summary

This spring, Governor Steve Beshear issued an Executive Order to establish the e-Transparency Task Force, a 14-member, bi-partisan panel committed to provide a more transparent, accountable state government that helps eliminate wasteful spending and restores public faith in its leaders.

To that end, Task Force members have been tasked by the Governor to establish Kentucky's Open Door, a Web site designed to provide a one-stop venue where citizens can review how their tax dollars and other state revenue are being spent, as well as obtain other vital information about state-funded programs.

Due to a concerted, expedited, multi-agency effort—led by officials of the Beshear Finance and Administration Cabinet, but involving the hard work and extensive cooperation of representatives of every state agency, including the staffs of the other, independently-elected constitutional officers—Kentucky's "Open Door" will be launched on January 1. Additionally, the Task Force received dozens of ideas from members of the public, some who testified at the Task Force's hearings; others who emailed their ideas via the Finance Cabinet's Web site.

Kentucky's Open Door will reflect the objectives of the Governor and the members of the Task Force—a user-friendly portal that will enable citizens to access substantial and substantive financial data about their government, ranging from big-picture budget summaries, to individual government vendors.

The members of the Task Force realize that on the date of its launch, Kentucky's Open Door will not be complete. Nor will it ever be. The Task Force recognizes that site will be ever-evolving and ever-improving; it will be a continuing goal to refine and supplement the site, providing more and more information to Kentucky taxpayers in an easy-to-access format.

However, by January 1, 2009, the members of the Task Force are confident that Kentucky's Open Door will already be one of the nation's finest transparency Web sites, and that this bi-partisan, multi-agency effort has taken a significant step in making Kentucky state government more accountable and responsible to the people of the Commonwealth.

eTransparency Task Force
Mission

As stated in the June 6, 2008 Executive Order, signed by Governor Steven L. Beshear, *(Attached hereto as Appendix A):*

> *"The e-Transparency Task Force shall deliver...a recommendation on the creation and implementation of a "one-stop" information access tool via the Internet or other easily accessible mode of operation whereby citizens of the Commonwealth may research, access and understand non-confidential monetary transactions of the Commonwealth."*

The Task Force shall:

> *"...Recommend the features and design of the "one-stop" information access tool that shall include, but not be limited to, providing information about state expenditures and state programs."*

Further:

> *"The e-Transparency Task Force shall recommend the design of a performance-measurement reporting system that enables transparency to be used as a tool for making government services more efficient and less costly to the taxpayers."*

eTransparency Task Force
Summary of Meetings

- **June 19:**

  - On June 19, the e-Transparency Task Force held its first meeting to outline the Governor's vision, to take testimony from the Treasurer and Secretary of State on their current smaller models to provide public data in the transition, and to hear from government experts about the challenges and legal limitations that will define the Task Force's primary tasks.

  - At the June 19 meeting, all Task Force members were asked to review e-transparency models in other states to advise the Task Force on elements and features for Kentucky's final plan.

  - The states which were presented at the June 19th meeting are listed below, but members were encouraged to share information and ideas from any other state or governmental subdivision of which they have knowledge:

    - Missouri – http://mapyourtaxes.mo.gov
    - Kansas – http://www.kansas.gov/kanview/
    - Oklahoma – http://www.ok.gov/okaa/
    - Texas – http://www.window.state.tx.us/

- **September 9:**

  - At the September 9 meeting Task Force members received testimony from Holland Spade with the Cabinet for Economic Development on their existing tax incentives e-transparency site.

  - Testimony was also taken on the potential information that would be hosted on the site, and discussion was held for the purposes developing a legal policy for the information presented on the site.

  - State Comptroller Ed Ross provided testimony on the efforts the Finance and Administration Cabinet were making to contact every state agency to solicit their assistance in the project.

  - Public testimony was received on suggestions for the site.

Summary of Meetings (continued)

- **October 2:**
    - The Task Force discussed a formal policy on the data that would be made public and what would needs to be shielded by the law and privacy considerations.

    - The Task Force also reviewed preliminary Web site features that will provide user-friendly access to general state budget allocations and specific expenditures by agency and vendor.

    - Public testimony was also received on those features presented.

- **October 21:**
    - The Task Force adopted the site's Legal Policy

    - The Task Force also reviewed changes to site layout following public comment and discussion.

- **October 31:**
    - The Task Force adopted its report to the Governor.

Agendas for the meetings of the Task Force are attached as Appendix B
Minutes for the meetings of the Task Force are attached as Appendix C.
Public feedback on the draft site and recommendations for the final site are attached as Appendix D.

eTransparency Task Force
Legal Policy

- The Task Force adopted the following legal policy:

   "All executive branch agencies shall, at a minimum, make available for the Governor's E-Transparency website the financial data (including payroll, capital expenditures, commodities, and contractual services) from the statewide accounting system subject to disclosure under current, existing, agency policy consistent with KRS 61.870 et seq. (the Open Records Act), and all relevant court opinions and/or Attorney General opinions."

- The policy was developed working in concert with the Attorney General's Office, the Governor's General Counsel, and General Counsels across all Cabinets of State Government.

- The Task Force recognized that the Governor's Executive Order, nor any recommendation of the Task Force, is legally binding on the other, independently-elected constitutional officials. However, all of those officers and/or their staffs—the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Treasurer, and the Commissioner of Agriculture—actively participated in the Task Force and independently agreed to participate in Kentucky's Open Door.

- The Legislative Research Commission notified the Task Force that it would not participate in the Governor's e-Transparency efforts. *(Their letter is attached hereto as Appendix E).*

Kentucky's Open Door:
A Site Walkthrough

(A full mockup of the site is attached as Appendix F)

e-Transparency Homepage

- From the Homepage, visitors to Kentucky's Open Door Web site will be able to access information on the Commonwealth's non-confidential executive branch financial transactions
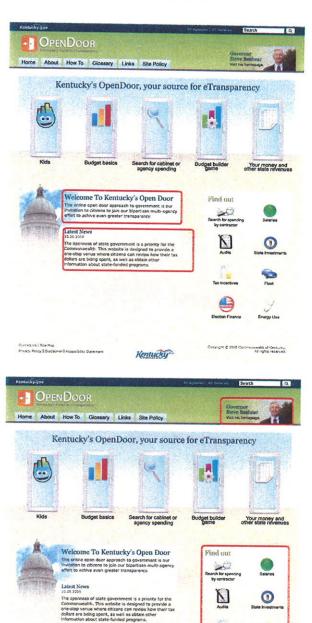

- Visitors to the site will be able to access basic functions through a navigation bar, which can be accessed from any point in the site
    - Citizens will be able to access an "**About**" section that describes e-transparency in the Commonwealth
    - There will be an easy to use and follow "**How To**" that describes how to perform basic searches and access key information
    - A handy "**Glossary**" will help to familiarize Kentuckians with budgeting and finance terms that are commonly used
    - A "**Links**" page will provide access to other sites available throughout Kentucky government that provide key services or accountability pages that citizens would find helpful
    - Lastly, the Open Door "**Site Policy**" will allow citizens to view the legal policy and exclusions for the information posted on the Web

e-Transparency "Welcome" and "Latest News"

- A welcome to Kentucky's Open Door will greet site users; which can be changed/updated to reflect important events in the Commonwealth's finances

- There will also be a **"Latest News"** section that will allow citizens to follow the latest news in transparency and accountability efforts

- Access will be available for citizens to reach Governor Beshear's homepage from the e-Transparency main page

- There will also be **"One Click"** access to areas of interest, and existing transparency efforts in government

e-Transparency's "Find Out" Section

- Thanks to the bi-partisan and cooperative effort of Kentucky's Constitutional Officers, **"One Click"** access will be provided to:
  - **Treasurer Hollenbach's** Vendor Income and Expenditure Watch (**V.I.E.W**), where citizens can search information on vendors from a cooperative effort between the Treasury and the State Controller's Offic
  - Information that is posted on **Auditor Crit Luallen's** homepage to key investigations and **Audits** of how state tax dollars are being spent
  - **Secretary of State Trey Grayson's** Office will join in providing access to the Registry of **Election Finance**, which already allows transparency into political contributions

- After the initial launch, additional site features hope to be included that allow access to:
  - **Salaries**;
  - **State Investment**; and
  - **Tax Incentives** with the Cabinet for Economic Development
- Additional space is reserved for **Fleet Information** and Government **Energy Use** once those technologies are available
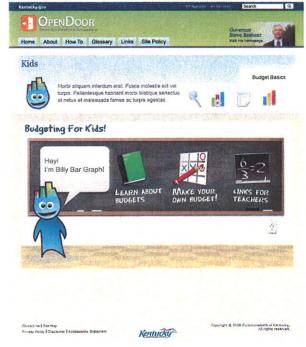
e-Transparency Open Doors and "Kids' Section"

- The main navigation portals for the e-Transparency Web page are a series of doors that allow the site to be navigated in an easy to use way; there are doors for:
  - **Kids**
  - **Budget Basics**
  - **Search by Cabinet/Agency**
  - **Budget Builder Game**
  - **Your Money and other State Revenue**

- By accessing the Kids' door, Kentuckians will be taken to a fully interactive **Kids' section**
- **Billy Bar Graph** makes his debut as the host and mascot of the site for kids
- Kids will be able to learn about budgets and be able to make their own budgets by accessing a series of icons
- There will also be an icon with links for teachers, which will allow teachers and parents to access information on budgeting and finance
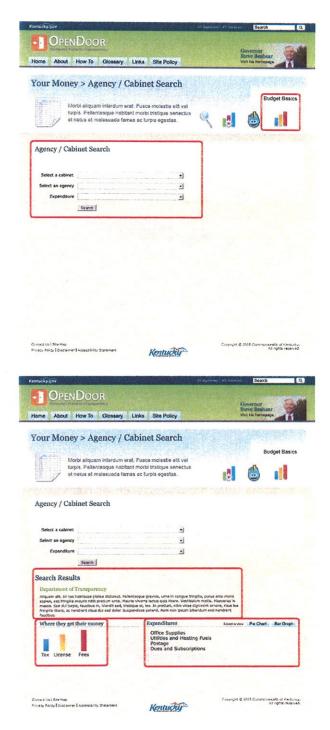
"How a Budget is Made" and "Budget Basics"

- Clicking the "**How a Budget is Made**" icon in the kids section brings up this page
- Billy Bar Graph will explain the page
- Each step acts as an icon that will bring up a different animation for each step of the process in how a budget is made
  - These details will need to be developed as the site grows; programming needs prohibit extensive detail in the section by the January 1 launch date

- Another door which is accessible from the Homepage is **"Budget Basics"**
- Budgeting Basics will provide answers to some basic questions including:
  - **Where does state money come from?**
  - **What is a rainy day fund?**
  - **How is the state budget made?**
  - **Where does the state spend its money?**
- Budget Basics also includes a listing of the **Top State Appropriations**

"Cabinet/Agency Expenditure and Revenue Search"

- Accessing the **"Cabinet/Agency Search"** door will take you to the main expenditure search page; from the page you'll be able to search spending by:
  - Cabinet
  - Agency/Department
  - Expenditure type
    - By object
    - By Vendor

- One of the features throughout the Open Door are easy to follow bubbles that provide information as the mouse pauses over certain icons or information

- After entering the search information, a description appears for each agency/department for the main duties they perform for the Commonwealth

- A static graph appears for each agency/department illustrating where **agency funds** come from
  - **The graph makes the distinction between revenue sources whether they are taxes, licenses, fees, etc.**

- Expenditures are listed by default in a tabular form which lists:
  - **Expenditure type**
  - **Dollar value**
  - A series of tabs are available that allow the information to be viewed by list, pie chart, or bar graph

"Budget Builder Game" and "Your Money"

- This slide is a place holder for the **"Budget Builder Game,"** once developed it will allow citizens to try balancing the state budget

    - The game will be set at a **high school civics class** level to be accessible to people with all levels of financial knowledge
    - You will be prompted to select **priorities** for your administration, whether education, economic competitiveness, or energy alternatives, etc.
    - Then you choose from a list of **policies**, weighing the pros and cons of each
    - The object is to balance the budget and achieve your policy goals

- The "**Your Money and other State Revenue**" door is another access point for general revenue and expenditure data

- The page is dominated by a graph that illustrates that **the taxes you pay are only part of where state money comes from.** The site will clarify that many state agencies are run on funds that do not implicate Kentucky taxpayers

- Access links are also provided for the two main sub-pages

    - **Revenues**
    - **Expenditures**

Your Money: "Expenditures" and "Revenues"

- The **"Expenditures"** subpage will direct taxpayers as to where their tax dollars are spent
  - Information will include easy to read charts, graphs, and descriptions that explain:
    - Expenditures
    - Tax Incentives
    - Salaries
    - Top State Appropriations
    - Audits (Link to Auditor's site)
    - Link to VIEW (Treasurer's site)
    - Link to Cabinet/Agency search
  - Such information will be updated on a DAILY basis.

- The **"Revenues"** subpage will explain where state money comes from
  - Information will stress that taxes are only one source of state revenue; will be presented in easy to read charts, graphs and descriptions that explain:
    - Major sources of revenue
    - List existing taxes in Kentucky
    - Provide links to resources within the Revenue Cabinet for Kentuckians to pay their taxes
    - Project revenues based on information presented on the State Budget Director's Website

Kentucky's Open Door:
Summary of Action

- Since the June 19 meeting, executed letters of acceptance have been received from the Transportation Cabinet, the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the Finance and Administration Cabinet to allow the State Treasurer's Office to proceed with uploading their data live into the V.I.E.W. application. The application was subsequently placed in production and made live at www.kytreasury.com.

- Since June, the State Controller's Office has completed its preliminary interviews with all state agencies, and is circulating letters of understanding on the expectations and types of information that would be included.

- The Finance and Administration Cabinet's Office of General Counsel has been in communication with state agencies to identify any specific types of information which need to be protected and excluded from public view.
  - Examples would include: settlements which have a specific legal obligation not to be disclosed, payments to victims of crime, and any payments to individuals protected by federal or state privacy and confidentiality laws.

- Technical meetings have taken place between kentucky.gov, the Commonwealth Office of Technology, the Office of the State Budget Director, the State Controller's Office and the Finance and Administration Cabinet to discuss site information and frequency of updates.
  - Budget information will be updated in coordination with the bi-annual budget
  - Revenue information will be updated monthly
    - Revenues by major source General, Transportation, and Federal Funds
  - Expenditure information will be updated daily
    - Expenditures by Cabinet/agency - Object Type
    - Drill down to Object
    - Drill down to Vendor payments

Kentucky's Open Door:
Timeline and Items for Further Development

- On November 1, the Task Force Report will be presented to Governor Steven L. Beshear.

- By November 1, the Finance and Administration Cabinet will have communicated with all 178 state agencies to ascertain what data is "protected" from disclosure pursuant to applicable state and federal law.

- By December 15, each agency will be asked to review all departmental data, prior to making it public.

- On January 1, we will launch the Kentucky's Open Door Web site, as expenditure data and overview information will be available on the Web.

- By spring 2009, Kentucky's Open Door will be expanded to provide data on revenue sources, allow Kentuckians to learn about the budget process, and provide a vendor payment "lookup" site.

- Interactive features of the site including the Budget Builder Game and interactive "Kids" site with animations will be developed upon approval and made available as soon as programming and implementation allows.

- Longer term items would include additional updates to ensure a more transparent eProcurement system, incorporate data about state funding trends, and information about the state fleet and energy use.

- Additional information on state grants was suggested by public comment, and will be considered for later inclusion.

e-Transparency Task Force
Possible Legislation and Budget Requests

- Several Task Force members recommended that the General Assembly pass legislation in the next session to require the Legislative Research Commission either to (a) provide all relevant financial information, pursuant to a policy such as the Task Force's adopted legal policy, to the Finance and Administration Cabinet, for inclusion in Kentucky's Open Door Web site; or (b) establish its own e-transparency Web site, which can be accessed from Kentucky's Open Door.

- The Secretary of State recommended that the General Assembly pass legislation that would require more and earlier reporting of campaign finance information, including requiring all candidates for state office to electronically file their campaign finance reports with the Registry of Election Finance.

- While the development of the site to date has been done at no cost to Kentucky taxpayers (kentucky.gov has performed the work under the terms of its existing contract with the Finance and Administration Cabinet), additional resources will be required to continue operations into the long term and to provide the ability to consistently refine and improve information sharing with the public.

  - Specifically, Task Force members who will be involved in such operations recommend that the 2010 General Assembly provide approximately an additional $150,000 for hardware, programming, and subsequent upkeep.
    - Some of these additional funds will be needed by the Commonwealth Office of Technology to provide the database and server to support the database and ongoing support for data extraction and reporting.
    - Some of these funds would be required by the State Controller's Office for costs related to preparing the initial information from the state's internal accounting programs and the ongoing support being allocated to this project.
    - The remaining funds would be needed by the Statewide Accounting and the Customer Resource Center (CRC) for:
      - Daily system assurance
      - Fielding phone calls
      - Annual update of all annual static data
      - Year end and annual start up issues
      - Annual and ad hoc update of changes in software
      - Reorganization issues
      - Reconciliation issues
      - Coordination of e-Transparency activities.

  - Long term annual costs should be revisited every two years during the biennial state budgeting process.

Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix A

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2008-508
June 6, 2008

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

CREATION OF THE E-TRANSPARENCY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, this administration believes in the openness of state government and the ability of its citizens to access information in a meaningful way about the operations and expenditures of its state government;

WHEREAS, this administration believes that one way of achieving more openness in state government is to create a system where individual citizens, through the Internet and other user-friendly tools, can access said information in a timely and simple manner;

WHEREAS, this administration believes that the creation of a "one-stop" venue where citizens of the Commonwealth can review how their tax dollars are being spent as well as obtain other information about state-funded programs is a hallmark of a "transparent" government;

WHEREAS, this administration believes that better transparency promotes improved government performance, and that ultimately, creation of systems that provide performance-measurement reporting will improve government accountability and public faith in state government;

WHEREAS, to that end, this administration believes that it is prudent to set up a task force to coordinate the resources, efforts, and synergies of all of the agencies of state government to study this issue and present a recommendation to me;

WHEREAS, this administration believes that a task force can foster the creation of such tools within existing funding sources while remaining compliant with any and all confidentiality requirements;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by KRS §12.029, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. I hereby create the "E-Transparency Task Force." The E-Transparency Task Force shall deliver to me a recommendation on the creation and implementation of a "one-stop" information access tool via the Internet or other easily accessible mode of operation whereby citizens of the Commonwealth may research, access and understand non-confidential monetary transactions of the Commonwealth.

2. The E-Transparency Task Force shall recommend the features and design of the "one-stop" information access tool that shall include, but not be limited to, providing information about state expenditures and state programs.

3. The E-Transparency Task Force shall recommend the features and design of a performance-measurement reporting system that enables transparency to be used

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2008-508
June 6, 2008

as a tool for making government services more efficient and less costly to the taxpayers.

4. The Chair of the task force shall be the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, the Honorable Jonathan Miller.

5. The Vice-Chairs shall be the State Treasurer, The Honorable Todd Hollenbach Jr, and the Auditor of Public Accounts, The Honorable Crit Luallen.

6. The Chair, upon consultation with the Vice Chairs, shall set the agenda for the meetings. The Chair shall be in charge of implementing and coordinating the directives of the E-Transparency Task Force by directing staff of the Finance and Administration Cabinet to accomplish said directives.

7. Other members of the Task Force shall be:

   a. The Honorable Jack Conway, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or his designee;
   b. The Honorable Richie Farmer, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture or his designee;
   c. The Honorable Trey Grayson, Secretary of State or his designee;
   d. The State Controller or designee;
   e. The State Budget Director or designee;
   f. The State Librarian, or designee;
   g. The Executive Director of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association or designee;
   h. The Executive Director of the Kentucky Press Association or designee;
   i. The Commissioner of the Commonwealth Office of Technology;
   j. The Executive Director of the Office of Legal Services for Finance and Technology, Finance and Administration Cabinet;
   k. The President of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce;
   l. The Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of State Employees;
   m. The Executive Director of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth;
   n. The Executive Director of Common Cause of Kentucky;

8. Pursuant to KRS 12.029, all members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed their out-of-pocket expenses.

9. The task force shall meet upon the call of the Chair.

10. The task force, under the direction of the Chair and Vice Chairs, shall produce a report detailing the tools to be created, how they will be implemented and any other matter that it deems relevant for my consideration.

11. The report shall be delivered to the Office of the Governor no later than November 1, 2008.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2008-508
June 6, 2008

12. The E-Transparency Task Force shall be administratively attached to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. The Finance and Administration Cabinet shall provide all staffing and administrative resources necessary to accomplish the mission of the Task Force. Upon request by the Chair, all state agencies are directed to assist the Task Force with accomplishing the directives previously set forth.

This order is effective June 16th, 2008.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Kentucky

TREY GRAYSON
Secretary of State

Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix B

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
October 21, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Room 129, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

AGENDA

I.   Call to Order

II. Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance and Administration Cabinet

III. Summary of last meeting and adoption of minutes

IV. Presentation of e-transparency legal policy:
     Jeff Mosley, Finance Administration General Counsel

V.   Walkthrough of site features and layout:
     Greg Haskamp, Finance Administration Cabinet

VI. Opportunity for Public Comments

VII. Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
October 2, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Room 171, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of
    Finance and Administration Cabinet

III. Summary of last meeting and adoption of minutes

IV. Presentation of e-transparency legal policy:
    Jeff Mosley, Finance Administration General Counsel

V. Walkthrough of site features and layout:
    Greg Haskamp, Finance Administration Cabinet and
    Lee Tompkins, General Manager Ky.gov

VI. Opportunity for Public Comments

VII. Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
September 9, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Room 171, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

AGENDA

I.   Call to Order

II.   Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance and Administration Cabinet

III.   Summary and discussion of member feedback on the efforts of other states

IV.   Presentation of transparency efforts at the Cabinet for Economic Development: Holland Spade

V.   Discussion of transparency efforts made to date

       a. Presentation by Finance Administration Staff: Finance General Counsel Jeff Mosley and State Controller Ed Ross

VI.   Opportunity for Public Comments

VII.   Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
Inaugural Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
Room 129, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

AGENDA

I.   Call to Order

II.   Introductory remarks by Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance
      and Administration Cabinet

III. Discussion of transparency efforts made to date

      a. Presentation by Lee Tompkins, General Manager, Kentucky.gov
      b. Presentation by Treasurer Todd Hollenbach,
       and State Controller Ed Ross
      c. Presentation by Secretary of State Trey Grayson

IV.   Discussion of long-term vision
      a. Presentation by Chairman Miller and Lee Tompkins
      b. Presentation by Auditor Crit Luallen

V.   Discussion of legal, technical, and financial challenges. Panelists to
      include: State Controller Ed Ross and Finance General Counsel Jeff
      Mosley

VI.   Adjournment

Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix C

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
October 21, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Room 129, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

II. Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance and Administration Cabinet

III. Summary of last meeting and adoption of minutes

IV. Presentation of e-transparency legal policy:
     Jeff Mosley, Finance Administration General Counsel

Alan Eskridge: Are we still proceeding on the assumption that the independent constitutional authorities will have a similar policy or statement that they'll sign on to?

Chairman Miller: I think the idea is that we would request that each of the constitutional officers have a similar statement, understanding that you have the ability to vary it, but taking this policy to act as something of a model code

Jeff Mosley: As was raised at the previous meeting we certainly don't think this is something the constitutional officers are bound by, but since they've been represented here and had the opportunity for input it is certainly hoped that this is something they would sign on to; but if they don't or choose not to it's their prerogative.

Alan Eskridge: Well and again, for the record, the secretary of state will certainly be signing on to the initiative…as we've already done.

A motion was made by Budget Director Mary Lassiter and seconded by Mr. Lee Jackson. The motion was approved, and the draft policy adopted.

V. Walkthrough of site features and layout:
    Greg Haskamp, Finance Administration Cabinet

Mary Lassiter: (Referring to the expenditures page) On this view what time period would this be…a month's expenditures…or a year's? I'm curious to know if it might be appropriate to have another selection so that the user could make a choice on the last month, three months etc. to get what they are looking for

David Adkisson: I want to piggyback on Mary's comment, when I see data, whether in a pie chart or however it is displayed my next question is, 'Well, what is the trend?' To the extent that we could encourage through the Website or our interaction with agencies that they provide trends, it would be helpful. As a general comment, for example, it's one thing to know what the appropriation is for K-12 it's another to see how that's changed overtime.

Alan Eskridge: I think if you are going to provide trends that you also need to account for some normalizing of the data, to account for inflation etc.

Mary Lassiter: I think at the last meeting we touched on two issues, one is budget information that is a static view of the budget for the fiscal year that you are in; but then the expenditure information is live information that is being updated. The trend data is a new issue, in terms of the budget information that's portrayed here.
How far back are we going to able to go?

Ed Ross: Without crossing accounting systems we'll only be able to go back two years right now, and add subsequent years going forward. Although the ten year information could be static information that could be updated each year, and show change overtime.

David Adkisson; There is already a trend line on the revenue page, I don't know if there is a cookie cutter for each agency...but to the extent its possible, it would be helpful to list the trends as agencies have them available.

Mary Lassiter: Other states, as they've begun this process, have they started small and then expanded efforts over time?

Greg Haskamp: Yes it would appear that they have started small and then adapted overtime.

Chairman Miller: It is certainly a site that we would expect would grow and change overtime, we don't anticipate that every function would be up and running by January 1, but the critical features… the searches etc. should all be ready by that point. The issues like trend analysis would take a longer period of time

Greg Haskamp: That's true including some of the more graphics intensive aspects of the site, like the game and the animations will require approval and further development

Alan Eskridge: This site has evolved well, it looks like we are moving toward something substantial that taxpayers deserve and demand. As a nudge in the right direction for the election finance feature, we certainly appreciate the link to the Secretary of State's main page but it more properly needs to link directly to the registry for election finance.

David Adkisson: I think this is fantastic, and what has developed so far is great. I know there is a challenge in rolling this out in short order, but for longer term it could be valuable to include a space where existing studies would be available...for instance in the long term policy office, or to the auditor's office, a number of reports have been developed and are part of public domain that might be valuable to students or researcher's and made available online. The other comment is that there needs to be some screening for word use...to the extent that this needs to be worked on, the terms we used should be something that people on "main street" can understand.

VI.   Opportunity for Public Comments

VII.   Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
October 2, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Room 129, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

MINUTES

I.   Call to Order

II. Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of
     Finance and Administration Cabinet

III. Summary of last meeting and adoption of minutes

IV. Presentation of e-transparency legal policy:
         Jeff Mosley, Finance Administration General Counsel

     Barbara Teague: How may we be able to relate the policy
     statement back to the Kentucky public records law because
     these records really are created under chapter 171. We wouldn't
     be creating records if we didn't have a Kentucky public records
     law. So I would like to see not just the exceptions from the
     open records act but really these records are created because of
     Kentucky's open records law which has its 50th anniversary this
     year.

     Jeff Mosley-Certainly we can discuss. We want to give all the
     props to KDLA.

V.   Walkthrough of site features and layout:
         Greg Haskamp, Finance Administration Cabinet

     Brian Lykins: As I look at the screen I am impressed that it does
     appear to be user friendly and can be used as a model for
     educational purposes, not just for specific financial information.
     As I look through here is the objective to provide several access
     points throughout various screens to drill down into more of the
     detailed area because I see several that would lend itself to be
     able to start at this particular screen, drill down to the more
     detailed area.

Lee Tompkins-Yes this is done at no cost.

Secretary Miller-How quickly do you see this updated and also keep agencies regularly sending us updated information.

Ed Ross-We see the financial information being updated daily.

Secretary Miller-Would the bigger picture information be changed daily or do you see this being updated monthly Mary. Like the budget data.

Mary Lassiter-The budget data would be annually. It would be a view of the current fiscal year and the year you are in, unless budget shortfalls or special sessions, that would be a static view.

Secretary Miller-The revenue data would probably be updated every month then.

Mary Lassiter-On the state budget website we post the monthly receipts reports. We haven't had the discussion yet to have that information on this site but if you wanted to link to it that would be totally appropriate.

VI. Opportunity for Public Comments
Concern was raised that site viewers might misconstrue that not all agencies and departments receive tax dollars, many are supported by other revenues raised. It should be apparent on the site that "tax dollars" are not the only source of agency funds.

VII. Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
September 9, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Room 171, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

MINUTES

I.   Call to Order

II.   Introductory remarks: Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance
        and Administration Cabinet

III.   Summary and discussion of member feedback on the efforts of other
        states

IV.   Presentation of transparency efforts at the Cabinet for Economic
        Development: Holland Spade
        a. Walkthrough of the Cabinet for Economic Development's Online
            Tax Increment Financing Information.

Auditor Crit Luallen: Does the site actually explain what those programs are or
does it just list them?

Holland Spade, Economic Development: Another place on our website you can
find an explanation and a fact sheet on each program and what the minimum
requirements are.

Steve Vest, Economic Development: There is a little help function here on our
site that will give you an explanation of that program.

Holland Spade, Economic Development: Each of those summaries if you click on
those there is a more detailed fact sheet that shows minimum requirement and
could help a company that has not applied yet find out how to get in touch with
us.

Chairman Jonathan Miller: Can we back up one second and put this in context
because for years there was a lot of concern among the public that the Economic
Development program was operated in secrecy. There was not enough public
knowledge of the programs and how the money was given out. This is a very
important step to shine a light on our programs to restore some public confidence
in them. Yet there is always a concern of giving away too much information in
that we don't want to give away propriety information or information that would
buy us competitor. If you could go through in a big picture, what is the balance
you cut here and how did you decide what data to put on this site.

have provided information on projects with regard to whether companies have met their job requirements so I know that we can do that.

Steve Vest, Economic Development: the decision was based on data that was available and for a lot of the older programs some of this information we didn't have in the data base. So rather than trying to go back and spend numerous man hours trying to populate that. It was decided to go from this date forward and provide what we do have and just go forward from there rather than going back.

V. Discussion of transparency efforts made to date

    a. Presentation by Finance Administration Staff: Finance General Counsel Jeff Mosley and State Controller Ed Ross
        i. Presentation of expenditure data
        ii. Discussion of legal challenges and open records interpretation

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: Did I understand you to say that the agencies have responded back and indicated that roughly 75% of their expenditures would be privileged for one reason or another?

Controller Ed Ross: What I am saying is if you eliminate tax refunds, child support payments, unemployment insurance, all the retirement payments and some other payments. That eliminates 75% of the payments in itself then we have to work on the other parts.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: Are the agencies being tasked with the responsibility of cleaning the data that will eventually go online?

Controller Ed Ross: They have given us the data that they do not want displayed, we have that part. We have to now determine how to bypass that information then after we have a trial run of information and let them review it one more time and then eliminate what needs to be.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: It's probable that the general public is not terribly interested in tax refunds anyway but are we putting some type of a burden on these agencies as to why information shouldn't be made available to the public. In other words if it was something they could obtain legally through a freedom of information request then its something we should be putting out there.

Controller Ed Ross: I think initially we should be cautious and put only information out there that we are comfortable putting out there. A name and an address of an individual might be on there and say that person is a detective or in a witness protection program you wouldn't want things like that displayed.

Inaudible: Will information from our meetings be available on the Web?

Jonathan Miller- We actually do have a website. I think what we will do is use the resources of the Governor's office to get out more information for the next meeting. Not everyone can get to Frankfort, but everyone can get to a computer. We do have a very substantive website that has details of our discussions here and has these models as well. It is on the Finance website. We will get that information and get it to you in the next few days. Thank you all for this process, I feel we are continuing on the road and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force
June 19, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Room 129, Capitol Annex, Frankfort.

MINUTES

I.   Call to Order
II.   Introductory remarks by Chairman Jonathan Miller, Secretary of Finance and Administration

III. Discussion of transparency efforts made to date

    a. Presentation by Lee Tompkins, General Manager, Kentucky.gov
       i. Overview of task force purpose and vision
      ii. Historical summary of Kentucky's transparency efforts
     iii. Perspective on other states' transparency efforts

    b. Presentation by Treasurer Todd Hollenbach and State Controller Ed Ross
       i. Walkthrough of Treasurer Hollenbach's Vendor Income and   Expenditure Watch (V.I.E.W) Website

    c. Presentation by Secretary of State Trey Grayson
       i. Walkthrough of Check it Out Kentucky! Secretary of State Trey Grayson's Website

IV.   Discussion of long-term vision
    a. Presentation by Chairman Miller and Lee Tompkins
    b. Presentation by Auditor Crit Luallen

V.   Discussion of legal, technical, and financial challenges. Panelists to include: State Controller Ed Ross and Finance General Counsel Jeff Mosley.

Auditor Crit Luallen: Any one of you might be able to answer this but I assume the other states that have done this have lessons to be learned from. For example any of these confidentiality issues will be the same in many states. They have already mastered how to do that and also how to aggregate that information. We would still like to know how much money in total is going to a particular group, even though we may not be able to disclose the members of the group. So can we not learn from some of those other states, how they came about answering some of these challenges.

Controller Ed Ross: Let's use the state of Missouri as our main contact. We have discussed how they gathered data and input the data, what they are including and excluding. They have been a great help to us. Our intent is to come up with a website that shows the total expenditures an agency has at the high level, but as you drill down you could rill to payments to vendors and see all the checks and payments to them. So there is 100% out there at the top level and drill down to a payment to an individual you would not see all the details that roll up to the higher level.

Finance General Counsel Jeff Mosely stated that any federal issue is going to be the same common sues. And we can work with them to see how they handled them, and not reinvent the wheel so to speak. Certainly HIPPA/FERPA issues like that are common to all states and we will be working with them on that.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson: I wanted to point this out we don't have our payroll data on there. We did a lump sum so when you add it up you get the total number and there is only one line for payroll. That aggregation is important to give the complete picture.

Controller Ed Ross: Just to add to Trey's comment, our intent would be to see the payroll at the high level but not down to the detail of the individual employee.

Auditor Crit Luallen: I think too with some of these sensitive areas to know how much money we are spending on the witness protection program or whatever it is. That is an important category. We just need to know how you aggregate that and keep it from any personal information.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: Going back to my particular area of interest and that is vendors' payments. The payments we will be able to reveal to the people once we get all agencies in the system. We already have some agencies in there. We will eventually have a floor plan of all state agencies in there. As Crit pointed out, people need to be able to make more sense out of it than just how much they are getting paid. They will probably be interested in knowing the details behind those payments. In other words the contracts that allowed for those payments in the first place. Have any of the states you have looked at found a way to link imagining technology or other technology to view the contracts.

Asst. Controller Stuart Weatherford: Certainly getting the contract numbers is a technologically easy thing to do. In our particular case the way contracts are put together will be a challenge to display a contract because it is all stored together and can't be taken apart. If there are some things in the contract that can't be put out there we will have a technological challenge of getting the information out. I am not saying it can't be done but that will be an issue from a technical prospective.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: Do you know if other states have addressed it and if so how they have attacked the problem?

Lee Tompkins, Ky.gov: Some states as opposed to putting the contract out there have linked a payment to a contract to a commodity code. Like XYZ company was paid one million dollars for road resurfacing or ABC company was paid one hundred thousand dollars for IT support. So they link it to a commodity or procurement code to show that this company did this level of service based on this. As opposed to putting an actual contract out there and most states have the same issue that within the contract there may be something that is excluded from an open records request. There are some challenges with throwing out a copy of a contract for a particular vendor. That is how they resolved that, this company was paid this much money for this type of service or this type of work done.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: The Chairman mentioned earlier if we were designing state government from the beginning it would be easier. It might be something we need to look at down the road so we set these contracts up in the first place. We can see how its set up from the get go, screen it out and make it more accessible to people.

Chairman Jonathan Miller: That might be an area of legislation that would be very hand or may be a policy thing but that's something that needs to be looked at.

Treasurer Todd Hollenbach: Can you expand on your comment about the open records request?

Finance General Counsel Jeff Mosley: An example that comes to mind is one of the first exemptions in the open records acts is personal information and that is subject to interpretation. There is a general body of law that most state government lawyers recognize as to general personal information that is excluded from an open records requests. Such as address, social security numbers, stuff like that. There is an Attorney General's opinion that supports that. When you get into more detail there could be a divergence of opinion whether it meets that exemption or not. All the counsels will need to get on the same page-as to what an appropriate interpretation of that and what is the best way to interpret that exemption. Its not as easy as KRS 341.490 that says no unemployment insurance shall be identified without their consent.

Secretary of State Trey Grayson: Setting aside Texas because I have seen a lot of iterations some of these states that have put this information online. Did they do it in multiple stages? There are a lot of questions to answer and some logistical issues obviously and we all know there are budget issues. Are there states that when they did this go through these things? What are the steps we can go along? We are showing progress but then we are building something that we haven't done irreparable harm to the next step.

Lee Tompkins, Ky.gov: Several states have started what you see up on the screen which is a very high level view of data and that was phase one for them. It was a consolidated view of revenue/nonrevenue taxes, whatever the category is. Very top line top level because they knew from an 2007 budget that x dollars were spent on this. They started with that and as policy and law was addressed they went down to the deeper detail, so certainly you could take a phased approach to this.

Chairman Jonathan Miller: That is a nice segway that I wanted to make. If you turn to your packet, reg Haskamp is the collector of data. Our idea for the road ahead is to go through the other websites and other sources that you are interested in. Get them to Greg in the next few weeks so he can review them with our technical team to go through and analyze how long on a time table this will take. Then at our next meeting and I don't want to define that so we will have enough time to go through this data and get a road map in terms of what is realistic. What can we have up by this fall and what can be up by January. How we can expand the work the Treasurer is doing. How we can encourage more agencies to do what the Secretary of State is doing. So we get the transitional period and have as much information to folks as possible, in a way that isn't disruptive of the final efforts as Trey mentioned. Please filter your ideas through Greg Haskamp and we will then come back to this task force within a month period after folks have been able to sort through these items and talk more about a detailed road map to reaching our final vision.

VI. Adjournment

Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix D

Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

From: J. Marshall
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 9:16 AM
To: Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)
Subject: Congratulations!

At this point in time, I would just like to thank you for doing this. Accountability is key in establishing or re-establishing faith in government and its processes. Good luck!

J.Marshall
Morehead, KY

˙om:	Jerry Brito
ᴊent:	Friday, October 17, 2008 3:44 PM
To:	Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)
Subject:	Comments on "Kentucky's Open Door"
Attachments:	081017 Kentucky Transparency Comments.doc; ATT4766903.txt

081017 Kentucky   ATT4766903.txt
Transparency C...   (266 B)

Dear Mr. Haskamp,

My name is Jerry Brito and I am a senior research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Our Government Accountability Project is dedicated to helping policy makers improve the public sector management process by bringing research and analysis to agencies to develop quality information about their effectiveness.
One of our newest initiatives has been to help the federal government, as well as state governments, make better use of online technologies to become more transparent and accountable to citizens. As a result, I have taken the liberty of drafting some comments to the e-Transparency Task Force that I hope it will find useful as it prepares its report to the governor. The comments are attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

˙erry Brito
ᴇnior Research Fellow
Mercatus Center at George Mason University

1

MERCATUS CENTER .

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Government Accountability Project

Public Interest Comment on
Kentucky's Open Door[1]

October 17, 2008

Submitted to the Kentucky e-Transparency Task Force

The Government Accountability Project of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University is dedicated to helping policy makers improve the public sector management process by bringing research and analysis to agencies to develop quality information about their effectiveness. Better information about the effectiveness of programs enables policy makers to make informed decisions about allocating resources to programs that provide the maximum benefits to the public. Thus, this comment on Kentucky's Open Door initiative does not represent the views of any particular affected party or special interest group, but is designed to evaluate the effect of the Task Force's proposals from a public interest perspective.

We commend the Commonwealth of Kentucky for endeavoring to make its operations more transparent through the use of Internet technology. We have reviewed the legal order from Gov. Beshear, the updates from the e-transparency committee, the draft legal policy, as well as the mockups of the sites, and would like to offer our comments on them.

Bottom line: the e-transparency task force should focus on providing to the public the most complete datasets and documents online in a structured format. While the data that is released could be formatted and explained within the state's website, the task force should consider that providing the raw data would allow third parties to create their own presentations of the data.

We have included a review of the current features of the mockups, as well as ideas about the final uses citizens will make of the data provided and what this means for what the Commonwealth should focus on in its e-transparency efforts.

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[1] Prepared by Jerry Brito, senior research fellow, with the help of Kevin Rollins. This comment is one in a series of Public Interest Comments from Mercatus Center's Government Accountability Project and Regulatory Studies Program and does not represent an official position of George Mason University.

Treasury Dept V.I.E.W

The Treasury V.I.E.W. application allows users to search by payee information (name, city, state, zip), ranges of dollar amounts, check dates, and the issuing agency. Once a search has been completed, V.I.E.W. allows users to export the results in a variety of formats including XML. We suggest that the database's capability be expanded to include live-updating XML feeds that are sortable and trackable.

The search functionality is a great step towards toward transparency and accountability, allowing citizens to be fully informed about their government's actions. However, a search function only helps you find an item (a contract, a check, or a vendor) that you know you are looking for. More interesting would be the ability to find useful data that you didn't know existed and therefore couldn't have been looking for. Structured data such as XML allows this.

Rather than searching for a particular vendor name, you could use sortable data to make queries that look for not just particular keywords, but for patterns. For example, among other things, you could query for:

- the top ten check recipients in a particular district
- the contractors who have received the greatest number of payments
- the top recipients by agency within a particular date range

Additionally, structured data feeds can be subscribable. That is, once you set your query parameters (e.g. checks above $1,000 by agency X) you can then subscribe to a feed of that query and each time a new item matches the parameters, you are automatically alerted.

Structured data also allow users to "mash" feeds with other services. For example, you could plot check recipient addresses on a map using the freely available Google Maps API. Imagine plotting on a map the recipients of rural aid only to discover that some of the recipients are in New York City. Imagine a "mash up" of state check recipients with a state campaign finance database list of donors. Government does not need to make these presentation applications itself. It merely needs to offer the data as an XML feed and third parties such as university researchers, watchdog groups, and even individual concerned citizens with basic computer skills, will create the mashups.

A reference list of third-party "mash-ups" created by citizens around the country using the data feeds of other states and the federal government is available at http://www.sunlightfoundation.com/resources.

Another major improvement that could be made to the V.I.E.W. database would be to add project information to the search results. Currently, search results show check numbers, payee names, and check amounts, but the do not disclose the contract associated with the payment. Citizens no doubt would like to know what the payees are being paid for and what they are getting for their expenditure.

In several places, it is noted that the current transparency offerings do not contain all the data the government possesses. In the case of the V.I.E.W dataset, only four agencies are included. Other agencies information should be included as soon as possible.

Finally, the existing ability in V.I.E.W. to download the entire database could be made more convenient – by a single button on the front of the search page, for instance. It appears that one can download the database by not specifying limiting criteria and then exporting to XML, but this not clear whether it is in fact doing so.

Secretary of State Online Checkbook

Many of the same considerations that apply to V.I.E.W. apply to the Secretary of State Online Checkbook as well.

The search form and output form of the Online Checkbook differs from V.I.E.W. in several ways. We appreciate that the Online Checkbook output includes the expense type, where V.I.E.W did not. Also included are vendor, payment date, amount, (and a blank notes field), but not the location of the vendors or the particular project with which the cost is associated. Unlike V.I.E.W., there is no export feature, nor does it offer any structured data feeds, which would be very useful.

We also like that the Online Checkbook's output form provides a statement of the total salary expenditures for a period. It would be better if it also stated the total expenditures. A breakdown of salary expenditures (even if only by job title) would also help citizens understand how the department is spending their money. Unlike V.I.E.W, the Online Checkbook does not users to input a date range either by text-field (e.g. by typing "9/14/08") or by using a calendar selector. Adding that feature would certainly improve the database.

Finally, the Secretary of State webpage states that the department hopes to eventually have the data uploaded in near real time. That would be a commendable step forward.

Beyond Check Registers

Gov. Beshear's executive order states that the task force's efforts will "include, but not be limited to, providing information about state expenditures and state programs." We encourage the task force to embrace this potentially wide-ranging mandate to open up state government.

The first order of business would be to provide a better sense of what information the state government actually possesses, how it is collected and maintained, what laws affect the collection and maintenance of this information. We recommend reporting the findings of such a survey on the one-stop site.

Another good starting point would be to include an Open Records Act page, in which all information divulged under the Act is made available in an accessible form at the one-stop site. Each document should be text searchable, and included in a database of documents with consistent, meaningful metadata.

To populate the site, we recommend uploading government documents as they are created, rather than waiting for a request from the transparency task force, a legislator, or a member of the public. For example, comments on this transparency initiative could be uploaded to the one-stop shop page.

Another feature could be a frequently requested document list, which could even have an RSS feed attached to it. The federal e-FOIA law already has such a requirement. Further, the website statistics could be made available, so that the public and the government could have a better understanding of which documents and pages are most heavily demanded.

Educational Components

Disclosing information for the sake of transparency can be fruitless unless the information is placed in context. The Task Force should therefore be commended for pursuing several educational modules that aim to teach the public about the budget process. That said, these modules would benefit from further consideration.

There are several educational modules aimed at children, including "Budgeting for Kids" and "How a Budget is Made!" which include games and activities. The Task Force's interest in children's education is commendable, but it should seriously consider whether it has a comparative advantage in this area and whether a cost-benefit calculation would justify an investment in a "Kids" website. The Task Force should seek to discover evidence of whether children are likely to visit the state's budget transparency website. It should also seriously consider whether the budget office has the expertise to develop lessons for children, and whether children would benefit from education about the state budget.

The Task Force should ask itself whether the resources necessary for the children's educational site would be better-invested elsewhere. For example, the state of Texas has been a leader in offering online disclosure of spending by school districts and plans to soon put online the checkbook of every public school. This benefits children indirectly by allowing their parents to hold educators and administrators accountable. Even if the Task Force concludes that a "Kids" program is in order, it should state a very clear and measurable goal for it so that it can later judge whether it has been successful and worth further investment.

Other educational modules aimed at a broader audience include "My Taxes," and "My Taxes: Revenue," which are useful basic explanations of the budget process. They could be improved, however, by allowing users to drill down into each of the stages of budgeting and programs in the budget. This would allow a more granular and view of the

data that would allow citizens to see how the budget affects them directly. Other useful additions to these educational sections might include an interactive diagram including the internal processes of the legislature in passing a budget, links to individual offices in the government and their contact information, and a dataset of the budget items requested by each legislator and the ultimate vote tallies.

Further Reading:

Jerry Brito, *Hack, Mash & Peer: Crowdsourcing Government Transparency*, 9 COLUMBIA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW REVIEW 119 (2008), available at: http://www.stlr.org/html/volume9/brito.pdf.

David Robinson et al., Government Data and the Invisible Hand, 11 YALE JOURNAL OF LAW & TECHNOLOGY (forthcoming 2009), available at: http://ssrn.com/abstract=1138083.

Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

From: King, Rita A

Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2008 10:51 AM

To: Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

Subject: feedback on the transparency website

Great idea.

I like the clear, uncluttered look of the pages and the variety of opportunities for visitors to try their hands at budgeting.

Could you consider adapting the kids section "making your own budget" for older students, say high school and college age who may be grappling with understanding student organization budgets, or even their personal budgets. Students I work with could benefit from some basic strategies and techniques of identifying revenue and expenditures in creating budgets for their groups. They may not be willing to go to the Kids site.

Rita King

Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Office
University of Kentucky

Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

From: Jessica K

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 5:13 PM

To: Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

Subject: Open Door Review

Looks good, if a little graphics intensive. The main problem comes in if you're going to animate the interactivity. If you have access to statistics on internet access and the most common pc/OS version build that's owned by the public, I would look them up. Last I heard, the vast majority of people are still using dial-up despite the proliferation of the technology to allow DSL and Cable in more remote areas (and I don't doubt that some people have downgraded to dail-up due to financial troubles). And low grade, Windows 98 machines are still in wide use. With the combination of graphics and animation, this could cause massive download times and computer lock ups for some of these people, if not a complete inability to use the site. While making it look nice is obviously key, offering a prominant link to a low-res mirror that involves less graphics and animation for those on slower connections would be a good idea. There's also the option of adding in a plugin sniffer that will automatically send people without the proper flash or java plugins to the low-res site (which I know is possible, since I did it a few months ago and tested it on multiple versions of multiple browsers).

Either way, there should be a more "common tax-payer" friendly version of the site.

10/30/2008

Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

From: Randy Wallace

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 11:23 AM

To: Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

Subject: E-Transparency Web Site Goes Online

Looks pretty good, need more data (of Course!!)

Anyway, keep up the good work.

Randy Wallace

Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

From: Ashley Johnstone

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 8:58 AM

To: Haskamp, Greg (Finance Secretary's Office)

Subject: etransparency website

This seems like a useful page, especially the budget part. I'm sure parents will like the part aimed at kids.

I'm more interested in something from the Revenue Cabinet that is similar to EFTPS through the IRS, to pay taxes online.
Currently, you can only mail payments snail mail, pay over the phone, or have it automatically deducted.

I will email the Revenue Cabinet.

Thank you,

Ashley

Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix E

Ross, Ed C (Finance Controller's Office)

From: Thorell, Lori (Finance Controller's Office)

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 2:23 PM

To: Weatherford, Stuart (Finance Controller's Office); Ross, Ed C (Finance Controller's Office)

Subject: FW: Transparency: Expenditure/Payment Public Website Vendor payments and Object Codes (FY 2008)

From: Barton, Betsy (LRC)
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 12:41 PM
To: Thorell, Lori (Finance Controller's Office)
Subject: RE: Transparency: Expenditure/Payment Public Website Vendor payments and Object Codes (FY 2008)

After discussing this issue with the LRC Director and Deputy Director, I have been asked to let you all know that LRC does not wish to participate at this time.
Thank you for consulting us during the planning phase.

Betsy Barton
LRC Business Office Manager

From: Thorell, Lori (Finance Controller's Office
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 10:34 AM
To: Barton, Betsy (LRC); Strange, Joanna (LRC)
Cc: Weatherford, Stuart (Finance Controller's Office)
Subject: Transparency: Expenditure/Payment Public Website Vendor payments and Object Codes (FY 2008)

Hello Betsy and Joanna,

Attached is the spread sheet to assist in identifying any Vendor payments that would be considered "off limits" in developing a Transparency: Expenditure/Payment Public Website.

The spreadsheet contains all :
Tab 1 - Check writers/Interfaces,
Tab 2- Object Codes (unique/used); and, **Tab 3 -** Vendors (paid) - in 2008.
Depending on the Legislative Cabinet's involvement ....if there are Vendor payment/payments that should not be made available on a public website ....then the Controller's Office would be interested in the reason and particular object code(s) and/or other uniquely identifiable data/data elements (DOC_CD, RFED_DOC_CD, FUND, etc.) associated with those payment(s) that could be used to filter them out when making a data extract for the Web.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Stuart Weatherford. Thank you.
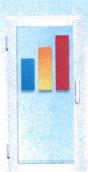
Kentucky's Open Door:
Appendix F

Search

OPEN DOOR
Kentucky's Portal to eTransparency

Governor Steve Beshear
Visit his homepage.

Home | About | How To | Glossary | Links | Site Policy

Kentucky's OpenDoor, your source for eTransparency

Kids

Budget basics

Search for cabinet or agency spending

Budget builder game

Your money and other state revenues

Welcome To Kentucky's Open Door

This online open door approach to government is our invitation to citizens to join our bipartisan multi-agency effort to achive even greater transparency.

Latest News
10.28.2008

The openness of state government is a priority for the Commonwealth. This website is designed to provide a one-stop venue where citizens can review how their tax dollars are being spent, as well as obtain other information about state-funded programs.

Find out

Search for spending by contractor

Salaries

Audits

State Investments

Tax Incentives

Fleet

Election Finance

Energy Use

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Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT

OpenDoor
Kentucky's Portal to eTransparency

Home | About | How To | Glossary | Links | Site Policy

Governor Steve Beshear
Visit his homepage.

Kids

Budget Basics

Morbi aliquam interdum erat. Fusce molestie elit vel turpis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.
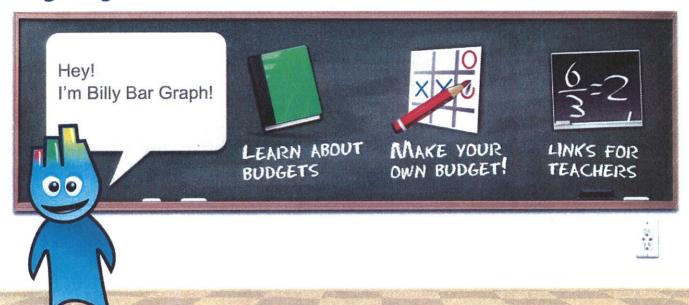
Budgeting For Kids!

Hey! I'm Billy Bar Graph!

LEARN ABOUT BUDGETS

MAKE YOUR OWN BUDGET!

LINKS FOR TEACHERS

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Kids

Morbi aliquam interdum erat. Fusce molestie elit vel turpis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.
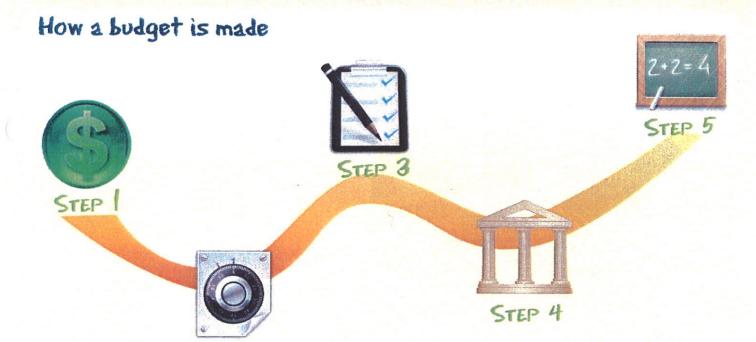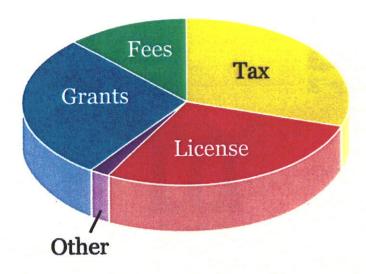
Budget Basics

How a budget is made

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

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Your Money

Morbi aliquam interdum erat. Fusce molestie elit vel turpis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.

Budget Basics

Where Does State Money Come From?
It's Not Just Taxes
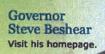
Revenue Resources

Your Money - Revenues

Your Money - Expenditures

Where does the state spend it's money

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Budget Basics

Morbi aliquam interdum erat. Fusce molestie elit vel turpis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.
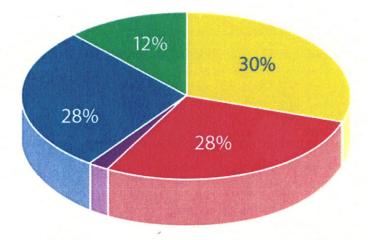
Your Money

General Fund

Where does the state spend it's money?

What is a rainy day fund?

How is the budget made?

Where does state money come from?

Top State Appropriations

Education

Post secondary education

Medicaid

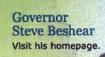Criminal justice

Human services

All others, etc...

12%

30%

28%

28%

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Your Money > Agency / Cabinet Search

Budget Basics

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Agency / Cabinet Search

Select a cabinet
Select an agency
Expenditure

Search

Search Results

Department of Transparency

Aliquam elit. In hac habitasse platea dictumst. Pellentesque gravida, urna in congue fringilla, purus arcu mollis sapien, sed fringilla mauris nibh pretium urna. Mauris viverra lectus quis libero. Vestibulum mollis. Maecenas in massa. Sed dui turpis, faucibus in, blandit sed, tristique et, leo. In pretium, nibh vitae dignissim ornare, risus leo fringilla libero, ac hendrerit risus dui sed dolor. Suspendisse potenti. Nam non ipsum bibendum orci hendrerit faucibus.

Where they get their money

Tax License Fees

Expenditures

Select a view   Pie Chart   Bar Graph

Office Supplies
Utilities and Heating Fuels
Postage
Dues and Subscriptions

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Budget Builder Game

Budget Basics

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You Win Once Policies & Priorities Are Met

Congrats!
You've Been Elected

Select difficulty

Easy - surplus

Medium - revenue is even

Hard – deficit with slow growth

Choose Priorities

Education

Health

Eron, comp.

Energy

Choose Policies

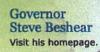Decrease revenue - cut taxes

Increase revenue - raise taxes

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Your Money

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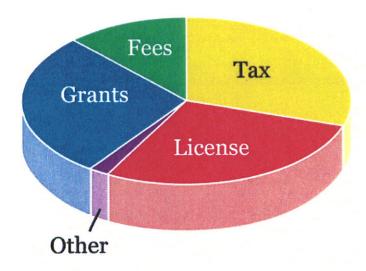
Budget Basics

Where Does State Money Come From?
It's Not Just Taxes

Fees

Tax

Grants

License

Other

Revenue Resources

Your Money - Revenues

Your Money - Expenditures

Where does the state spend it's money

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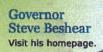
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Your Money > Expenditures

Morbi aliquam interdum erat. Fusce molestie elit vel turpis. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas.

Budget Basics

Where Does The State Spend It's Money?

Follow my dollar

What is a rainy day fund?

Revenues
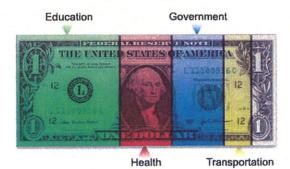
Vendor / Contractor & Expenditure Search

Tax incentives

Where does state money come from?

Expenditure data

Agency / Cabinet Expenditures

Salaries

Audits

Top State Appropriations

Education

Post secondary education

Medicaid

Criminal justice

Human services

All others, etc...

$1.00 Of My Money

Education   Government

Health   Transportation

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Your Money > Revenues

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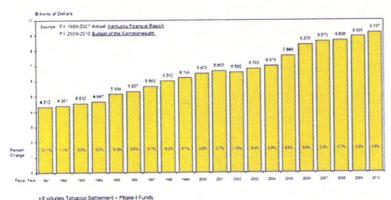
Budget Basics

Where Do State Revenues Come From?

Where does state money come from?

Where does the state spend it's money?

What is a rainy day fund?

Revenue Resources

Get Tax Forms

List of Kentucky Taxes

State Investment

Lottery

Agency / Cabinet Expenditures

Expenditures

General Fund Revenue Receipts
Fiscal Years 1991-2010
(Billions of dollars – rounded)

- Excludes Tobacco Settlement – Phase I Funds
- Excludes Fund Transfers

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